Amendments to the Claims

Please add the following claims:

23. Apparatus for cutting and stripping portions of a covering layer from a filamentary workpiece having a circular cross section and a central axis, said apparatus comprising:

a) clamping jaws for axially and longitudinally fixing the position of said workpiece:

b) at least one blade having at least one cutting edge for cutting at least partially through said layer;

c) first motive means for moving said at least one blade to cause said cutting edge to cut at least partially through said layer;

d) a pair of members having opposed edge portions on opposite sides of said workpiece;

e) second motive means for reciprocating movement of said pair of members radially of said workpiece between a first position, wherein said edge portions are positioned radially outwardly of said layer, and a second position, wherein said edge portions forcibly engage said layer; and

f) third motive means for moving said members axially of said workpiece.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one blade is moved conjointly with said members by said third motive means.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one blade is moved by said first motive means to cut at least partially through said layer in a rotary manner, about the entire periphery of said layer.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said at least one cutting edge comprises a single edge surrounding a circular opening in said at least one blade, said workpiece extends through said opening, and said first motive means moves said at least one blade in an orbiting path about said central axis.

27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said edge portions are substantially linear, sharp edges positioned in spaced, parallel relation at equal distances on opposite sides of said central axis throughout movement thereof by said second and third motive means.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 and further including means for selective control, between upper and lower limits, of the spacing of said edges portions when said members are in said second position.

29. The apparatus of claim 23 and further comprising selectively programmable control means for controlling movement of said first, second and third motive means.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said control means comprises operator actuated, electronic storage means and a microprocessor.

31. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one blade is positioned between said clamping jaws and said members.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said cutting edge and said opposed edge portions are positioned closely adjacent one another.